National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Salem Maritime National Historic Site
Salem, Massachusetts

Nathaniel Hawthorne's Salem

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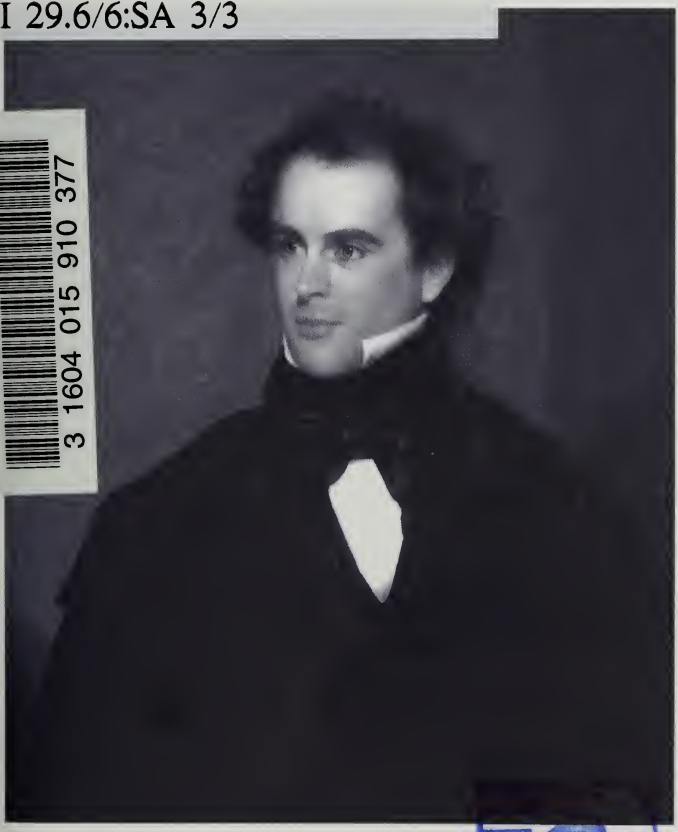

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Literary Salem in the Early Nineteenth Century

A Walking Tour

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Portrait of Nathaniel Hawthorne by Charles Osgood, 1840
Courtesy Peabody Essex Museum

Text and design by Emily A. Murphy, Park Ranger, Salem Maritime National Historic Site

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Essex National Heritage Area

Salem Maritime National Historic Site is one of many historic sites that can be found in Essex County, Massachusetts. In 1996, Congress designated Essex County as a National Heritage Area in order to enhance, preserve and encourage awareness of the county's historic, cultural and natural resources and traditions. For more information, visit the ENHA website: http://www.essexheritage.org/

"Halfway down a bystreet of one of our New England towns . . ."

The Life of Nathaniel Hawthorne

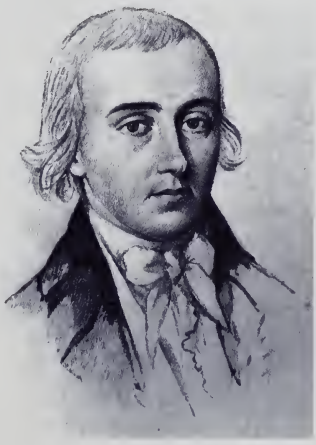
Nathaniel Hawthorne was born in a small house in Salem on July 4, 1804, to Capt. Nathaniel Hathorne and his wife, Elizabeth Clarke Manning. He grew up playing on the streets, wharves, and Common of that city, read its history at the Athenaeum, and heard the local stories passed down in the Hathorne and Manning families, who had lived in Essex County since the early seventeenth century.

Hathorne or Hawthorne? Nathaniel Hawthorne added the "w" to his name around 1827, probably to make the spelling match the pronunciation.

During his long career as an author, Hawthorne wrote about the history and people of New England, as he probed the dark corners of the human mind and the tension between individuals and society. From these elements he fashioned uniquely American literary works, which included some of the finest writings of the nineteenth century.

Childhood and Education

After Capt. Hathorne's death in 1808, the Hathornes, six-year-old Elizabeth, four-year-old Nathaniel, and the infant Louisa, along with their mother, moved to her parents' house. Nathaniel began going to school shortly before he turned four, and it seems he attended school regularly, although, like many schoolchildren, he tried to avoid the tedious work of



Captain Nathaniel Hathorne (1775-1808), father of Nathaniel Hawthorne.
Engraving taken from a miniature portrait owned by the Hawthornes

Hawthorne's grandfather, "Bold Daniel," was a well-known privateer during the Revolution. Daniel's son, Capt. Nathaniel Hathorne mostly sailed as an officer on ships belonging to relatives. It appears that his only command was of the brig *Nabby* in 1807-1808. Unfortunately, this was his last voyage, for Capt. Hathorne died in Surinam of yellow fever in the winter of 1808.

Courtesy Peabody Essex Museum

learning his Latin and Greek. However, he managed to learn enough of the classics to enter Bowdoin College in 1821 at the age of 17. His career at Bowdoin was undistinguished, but he made many lifelong friends among his classmates.

Beginning a Literary Career

Upon his return to Salem after graduation in 1825, Hawthorne again took up residence in his attic room in "Castle Dismal," as he called the Manning house on Herbert Street. Three years later, Hawthorne's first book, the romantic novel *Fanshawe*, was published at his own expense. In the late 1820s and early 1830s, he wrote short stories and sketches that were published in local newspapers and national literary magazines. He also traveled extensively in New England and New York during this period, visiting friends and recording story ideas in a series of notebooks. In 1837, Hawthorne's first collection of short stories and sketches was published. Critics praised *Twice Told Tales*, and the handsome young author became a desirable guest at gatherings in Salem and Boston, especially hosted by intellectuals like Elizabeth Peabody. Hawthorne soon fell deeply in love with Elizabeth's youngest sister, Sophia.

By 1839, Hawthorne was in need of a more steady income than that offered by writing. Many of his friends from college were important members of the Democratic Party, and through them he got a position with the Customs Service in Boston. Shortly thereafter, he became secretly engaged to Sophia Peabody. However, after two years Hawthorne found Customs work dull. He moved to Brook Farm, an experimental commune based on Transcendentalist philosophy, where he hoped to return to writing.

Marriage, the Old Manse, and the Custom House

On July 9, 1842, Nathaniel Hawthorne and Sophia Peabody were married at the Peabody home in Boston, and the Hawthornes moved into the Old Manse in Concord, Massachusetts. They were living in the middle of a vibrant community of intellectuals, including Ralph Waldo and Lidian Emerson, the Alcott Family, and Henry David Thoreau. The three years they spent in the Old Manse were some of the happiest of their lives. Una, the Hawthornes' first child, was born in the house, and there Hawthorne wrote many of the stories that were later published in *Mosses from an Old Manse*.

Financial difficulties, however, ended their honeymoon in Concord, and at the end of 1845 the couple and their baby moved back to Salem to a room in the house on Herbert Street where Hawthorne had spent so much of his youth. Once again, his friends came to his rescue by recommending him for the position of Surveyor of the Port of Salem.

Hawthorne was sworn in on April 9, 1846, shortly before his son Julian's birth in Boston. In 1848, however, the Whigs defeated the Democrats, and as a result Hawthorne lost his job the next year. His mother's illness and death on July 31, 1849, only compounded his worries.

The Creation of an American Literature

From late 1849 through February 1850, Hawthorne worked on *The Scarlet Letter*. This novel is considered by most critics to be his masterpiece and one of the first truly American novels. The Hawthornes left Salem in April 1850, soon after *The Scarlet Letter* was published to great critical acclaim everywhere except Salem, where many residents did not appreciate the depiction of the city and its people in the book's introduction.

They moved to a rented house in Lenox, Massachusetts, where on May 20, 1851, their last child, Rose, was born. The three years after the publication of *The Scarlet Letter* were ones of great activity for Hawthorne, who was now in his late forties. He edited a third edition of *Twice Told Tales* and wrote *The House of the Seven Gables* in 1850. In 1851 he oversaw the republication of his historical children's stories, wrote children's stories based on Greek myths entitled *A Wonder Book*, gathered and edited previously published short works for publication as *The Snow-Image*, and began writing *The Blithedale Romance*, which was based on his life at Brook Farm. The following year, the family purchased "The Wayside" in Concord from Bronson Alcott. There, Hawthorne wrote the campaign biography of his best friend, Franklin Pierce, who ran successfully for President on the Democratic ticket in 1852. On March 26, 1853, shortly after he finished *Tanglewood Tales*, the Senate confirmed Hawthorne as United States Consul at Liverpool and Manchester, England.

Nathaniel and Sophia Hawthorne's children. Left to right: Una, Julian, and Rose.
Carte-de-visite photograph by Silsbee and Case, circa 1862.

After her mother's death, Una edited some of her father's unfinished work. She was often ill and died in England in 1877. Julian embarked on a career as a writer and promoter of his father's work. He died in San Francisco in 1934. The Hawthorne's youngest daughter, Rose, became a nun after the death of her husband, George Lathrop, and founded an order that works with poor cancer victims. She died in 1926. In 2003, Rose was nominated for sainthood.

Courtesy Peabody Essex Museum

An Author Abroad

For the next four years, Hawthorne dealt with customs issues, the rights of American sailors, and other diplomatic problems. He was honored in England for his writing, and the entire family was often invited to dinners, events and country houses, where they met many of the English literary figures of the day. Although he did not publish any major works during his time as Consul, he continually recorded his activities and impressions in his notebooks. By 1856, however, Hawthorne was concerned about Sophia's health and the increasingly tumultuous politics in the United States. He resigned as Consul effective August 31, 1857.

The Hawthornes traveled through Europe for the next three years, mainly living in Rome and Florence among expatriate American and English artists. In Rome, the Hawthornes met old friends, like sculptor William Wetmore Story, while in Florence they met Robert and Elizabeth Barrett Browning. Hawthorne began writing *The Marble Faun*, a novel based on the American artistic community in Rome, but his work stopped when Una nearly died from malaria. The whole family returned to England in mid-1859, where Hawthorne finished *The Marble Faun*, and in June 1860 they returned to America.

Coming Home

Hawthorne's return to the Wayside marked the beginning of the last chapter of his life. He wrote stories based on his English notebooks that appeared in the *Atlantic Monthly* before being published as *Our Old Home*, and began a couple of longer romances. Throughout 1861 and 1862 he traveled, going as far south as Washington, DC, where he met President Abraham Lincoln.

Hawthorne's health deteriorated after his southern trip. In the hope of recovering his strength, he and Franklin Pierce began a tour through New England in May 1864. Six days after beginning his trip, however, Hawthorne died in his sleep on May 19, 1864, in the Pemigewasset House hotel in Plymouth, New Hampshire. Some of the greatest names in American literature attended his funeral in Concord on May 23, including his lifelong friend Henry Wadsworth Longfellow. The unfinished manuscript of one of his last works, *The Dolliver Romance*, lay on Hawthorne's coffin during the ceremony and inspired a verse in Longfellow's memorial poem:

There in seclusion and remote from men
The wizard hand lies cold,
Which at its topmost speed let fall the pen
And left the tale half told.

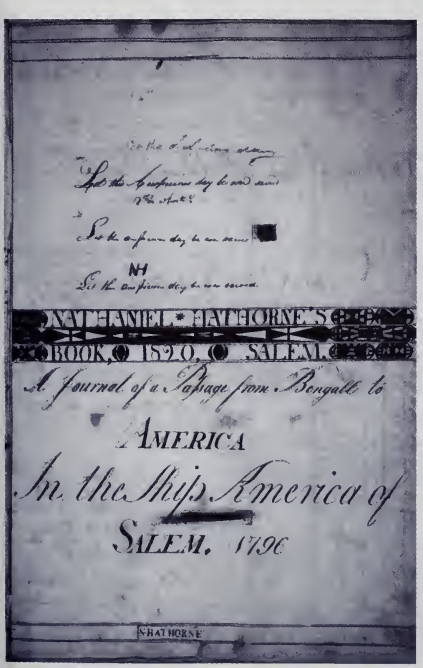
"I felt it almost as a destiny to make Salem my home."

A Seafaring City in the Early Industrial Era

Nathaniel Hawthorne lived during a time of radical change in Salem. The city he was born into in 1804 was still at the height of its wealth and influence. It was the center for the world-wide pepper trade, and the busy waterfront only a block away from Hawthorne's birthplace was filled with exotic sights, sounds, and smells, as ships like those his father sailed on unloaded their cargoes. As Hawthorne played on Union and Herbert Streets, he would have been within earshot of the pounding hammers and shouts of workmen at the shipyard of Enos Briggs across the South River from Derby Wharf. Other industries active at that time included rope making, distilling, and tanning, all involved with the construction, maintenance, or supplying of the trading fleet.

Embargo and War Change the Trade of Salem

The embargo of 1807 grounded Salem's fleet for 15 months, and was soon followed by the War of 1812. Together, these events greatly reduced the East India trade of Salem. Although Hawthorne was too young to clearly remember the embargoed ships moored in Salem Harbor, he probably did remember the war, and the battle of the frigates *Chesapeake* and *Shannon* in Salem Harbor on June 1, 1813. Although the East India trade from Salem continued for another forty years or so after the end of the War of 1812, the city never regained her position as an important East Indies port.



Log book of the 1796 voyage of the ship *America* kept by Capt. Nathaniel Hathorne, and decorated by his son in 1820.

The *America* was owned by Elias Hasket Derby and mastered by Jacob Crowninshield. On this voyage, Capt. Crowninshield brought back the first elephant ever seen in the United States.

Courtesy Peabody Essex Museum

Industry Comes to Salem

By the time Hawthorne returned from college in 1825, the character of Salem's economy was changing. Industry independent of the maritime trade began to spring up; a lead works was built next to the Briggs shipyard in 1826, a chemical company near the North River in 1819, and a gum copal processing plant in 1835. As the shoemaking industry in Lynn expanded, the number of tanneries in Salem grew dramatically as well. Shortly after Hawthorne became Surveyor of the Port of Salem in 1846, the Naumkeag Steam Cotton Mill opened on the site of the lead works and began a century of production of cotton sheeting.

Trade during Hawthorne's Term as Surveyor

Due to this growth in homegrown manufacturing, by the time Hawthorne was sworn in as Surveyor, the maritime trade of Salem had gone through a reversal. In the early years of the nineteenth century, vessels left port with rum and codfish in their holds and returned with spices, silks, coffee, and other expensive, exotic goods that had high customs duties. By the middle of the century, however, vessels were leaving Salem laden with furniture from Salem shops, cloth from the Naumkeag Mill, and shoes from Lynn. These finished goods were traded for hides from West Africa for the shoe factories, gum copal from Zanzibar for varnish, and lead for paint and piping made in Salem. Items such as these were bulky, but had low customs duties. So, while the number of vessels and weight of cargo coming into the port did not really decrease through the middle of the nineteenth century, the glamorous cargoes, spectacular wealth, and immense customs duties did disappear from Salem's wharves.

Hawthorne's description of the empty, dilapidated wharves of the city in *The Scarlet Letter* is probably more poetic than true. However, as he oversaw the measuring of tons of hides, cotton, and lead on Derby Wharf to the constant noise of the cotton mill only yards away, he was probably thinking of the romance of the cargoes of his youth. After all, cinnamon and cloves smell better than raw cowhides.

Oil Painting of the Naumkeag Steam Cotton Mill, c. 1850

Courtesy American Textile History Museum

"My Dearest Dove"

Sophia Amelia Peabody Hawthorne

Engraving of Sophia Amelia Peabody at the age of 36

Courtesy Peabody Essex Museum

Sophia Amelia Peabody was born in Salem on September 21, 1809, the third of six children of Dr. Nathaniel and Elizabeth Palmer Peabody. From her childhood she was declared to be "of a delicate constitution," particularly after she developed migraines as a teenager, and therefore was not expected to live very long. However, both her parents had been teachers, and her father was a Harvard-educated dentist and physician. So the fragile young woman learned Greek, Latin, Hebrew, French, and Italian, although she was not allowed to teach in order to supplement the family income as did her older sisters. Sophia was able to contribute in another way, though: she was a gifted artist and copied oil paintings to sell. Her sister Elizabeth introduced her to the famous painter Washington Allston, who greatly admired Sophia's work. Her health improved when she was away from home—perhaps because of the separation from her strong-willed mother and oldest sister—and so as a young woman she traveled around New England visiting friends and even went to Cuba with her sister Mary for a few months.

The Peabody Sisters

Sophia had two older sisters, Elizabeth and Mary, and three younger brothers, Nathaniel Cranch, George, and Wellington. Mary is best known as the second wife of Horace Mann, the great education reformer and first president of Antioch College. It was Elizabeth, however, who was the most famous of the three sisters. In 1840, the Peabodys moved to Boston, and Lizzie opened a bookshop in the family home on West Street that quickly became the center of intellectual life in Boston. Literary lights, such as William Ellery Channing, Ralph Waldo

Emerson, and Margaret Fuller, could often be found there browsing the shelves, chatting with friends, or lecturing. In later life, Elizabeth Peabody became known for pioneering the kindergarten movement in America.

"How I long to be in thy arms"

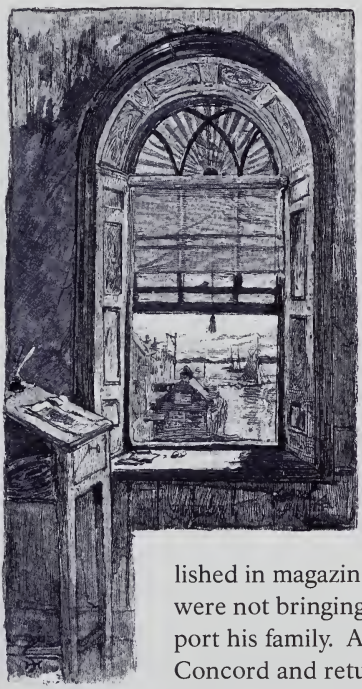
Although it is unlikely that it was love at first sight, as Lizzie claimed, it is undeniable that Sophia and Nathaniel were deeply in love and remained so all their lives. The clearest evidence of their love is in their passion-filled correspondence and the journals they shared. Many of the illnesses and headaches associated with Sophia's "delicate constitution" disappeared when she became secretly engaged to her young author in 1839 and did not return after her marriage and the birth of three children. Her artistic talents were also useful after her marriage, for she was able to sell her work when times were difficult for the young couple. After Hawthorne's death, Sophia edited his notebooks for publication, and in 1868, she and the children sailed for Germany. Upon Julian's graduation from school in Dresden, Sophia, Una, and Rose moved to England in 1870, where Sophia died on February 26, 1871. She is buried in Kensal Green Cemetery in London, an ocean away from the husband she adored.

"Being dissatisfied with the position of Ilbrahim's foot, in the illustration of the Gentle Boy, Sophia said 'She could not sleep because Ilbrahim kicked her.'" *Notebook entry of Nathaniel Hawthorne, 1838*

Illustration for "The Gentle Boy" by Sophia Peabody for the second printing of Hawthorne's short story in 1839. Courtesy Peabody Essex Museum

"I feel pretty well since my head has been chopt off."

The Custom House Controversy



The view from Hawthorne's office window in the Custom House, drawn in 1888 as an illustration for his son Julian's article "The Salem of Hawthorne" in *The Century Magazine*.

By the mid-1840s, Nathaniel Hawthorne was well known, but his short works published in magazines and collected in books were not bringing in enough money to support his family. After the Hawthornes left Concord and returned to Salem in 1845, his friends in the Democratic Party nominated him for the post of Surveyor of the Port of Salem. So, on April 9, 1846, "I ascended the flight of granite steps, with the President's commission in my pocket, and was introduced to the corps of gentlemen who were to aid me in my weighty responsibility."

The Surveyor's Duties

The day-to-day duties of the Surveyor included overseeing about fifteen Customs Officers as they processed cargoes entering the port of Salem. As Surveyor, Hawthorne answered to the Collector and Deputy Collector and was the only person in the Custom House authorized to use a hydrometer to measure the alcohol content of wine and spirits.

Hawthorne Loses His Job

In 1848, Zachary Taylor, a Whig, was elected to the presidency. During the campaign, Taylor promised not to remove appointees of James K. Polk's Democratic administration except in cases of wrongdoing. The local Whigs, however, decided they wanted Hawthorne's position, and so local politicians, some of whom he had once considered his friends, started a series of vitriolic attacks. While he had never written political articles

for the *Salem Advertiser*, as the Whigs claimed, some of their accusations were true. Hawthorne did give more work (and therefore more money) to Democratic Inspectors, but the most serious accusation was that Hawthorne threatened to lay off two of his employees if they did not contribute to the Democrats. He had actually written letters of dismissal on orders from Washington, but they were never given to the Inspectors.

"Neither the front nor the back entrance of the Custom-House opens on the road to Paradise."

Hawthorne fought valiantly to retain his position throughout the spring of 1849, writing to friends who might be able to use their influence in Washington to help him, but he was finally dismissed on June 8, 1849. He continued to try to retain his position through most of the summer, but he finally gave up after his mother's death in July, admitting his head had been "chopt off," as he wrote to Henry Wadsworth Longfellow.

The Scarlet Letter

The anger over his dismissal, as well as grief over his mother's death, drove him to his study on the third floor of his house on Mall Street. By September, Sophia reported that he was writing "immensely." *The Scarlet Letter*, which many scholars believe to be his finest work, was completed in February. The first edition sold out within weeks and immediately went into a second printing. Since Democratic newspapers all over the nation had carried the story of his fight to keep his job, many people were interested in hearing Hawthorne's side of the story. As a result, the popularity of the book had less to do with the plot of the novel than it did with its introduction. "The Custom House" was Hawthorne's barbed and extremely funny response to his dismissal, and while it offended many residents of Salem, it was well received outside the city.

"Neither the front nor the back entrance of the Custom-House," Hawthorne wrote, "opens on the road to Paradise." For Nathaniel Hawthorne, those doors opened onto artistic success, and in the years following his dismissal he wrote some of the greatest works of nineteenth-century American literature.

Nathaniel Hawthorne's Salem: A Walking Tour

"This old town of Salem," writes Hawthorne in "The Custom House," *". . . possesses, or did possess, a hold on my affections, the force of which I have never realized during my seasons of actual residence here. . . . there is within me a feeling for old Salem, which, in lack of a better phrase, I must be content to call affection."*

Although Hawthorne often criticized the city of his birth, he could not deny that it had an enormous influence on his life and work. The rest of this booklet consists of three walking tours designed to explore the people, places, and events that were familiar to Hawthorne during his years in the city.

All the walking tours begin and end at the **Hawthorne Memorial** on Hawthorne Boulevard, indicated by a star on the map at the back of this brochure. Stops on the walking tours are also indicated on the map.

▲ **Relations and Relationships** (pages 12-17) focuses on the people who influenced him during his childhood and after his return to Salem after his college years.

● **Salem in Print** (pages 18-24) explores some of the sites and events in Salem that Hawthorne used in his writings.

■ **The Custom House** (pages 25-32) examines the four years Hawthorne spent as Surveyor of the Port of Salem and the places he mentions in the introduction to his first successful novel, *The Scarlet Letter*.

Each tour should take approximately 45 minutes to one hour to complete. As you are walking around the city of Salem, please be careful crossing the streets, and watch your footing on some of the older sidewalks. Like all of New England, Salem can be subject to extremes in weather, so please be sure to dress accordingly and wear comfortable footwear.

Hawthorne Boulevard was created in the early twentieth century by the widening of Elm Street. In 1925, the bronze statue by Bela Lyon Pratt was dedicated by the City of Salem as a memorial to Salem's best known native author.

Walking Tour 1: Relations and Relationships

To begin the tour, from the Memorial proceed south on Hawthorne Boulevard (down the slope) and turn left on Derby Street. Turn left again on Union Street. Between numbers 21 and 31 Union Street is a parking lot where Nathaniel Hawthorne's birthplace once stood.

1 **27 Union Street, birthplace of Nathaniel Hawthorne. Photograph by Frank Cousins, c.1890.**

Courtesy Peabody Essex Museum

This small house was purchased in 1772 by Capt. Daniel Hathorne and inherited by his son Capt. Nathaniel Hathorne. It was here that Nathaniel Hawthorne was born on July 4, 1804, the second child of Capt. Nathaniel Hathorne and his wife Elizabeth Clarke Manning. Capt. Nathaniel's death in 1808 of yellow fever in Surinam left Elizabeth Manning Hathorne without much money, and so later that year she moved back into her family home around the corner with Nathaniel, his older sister Elizabeth, and younger sister Louisa. Hawthorne would have been very familiar with the house, since his grandmother and two of his aunts continued to live here. In 1958, the house was moved to the grounds of the House of the Seven Gables on Turner Street and is now open to the public seasonally.

Proceed north on Union Street to Essex Street. On the left corner is the Brown Building.

2 **The Brown Building, corner of Union and Essex Streets. Photograph, 1888. Photographer unknown.**

Courtesy Peabody Essex Museum

The Brown Building was built in 1808-1809, and is the oldest brick multi-use building surviving in the city. In 1810 Dr. Nathaniel Peabody, his wife, Elizabeth Palmer Peabody, and their three daughters, Elizabeth, Mary, and one-year-old Sophia, moved into one of the residential units in the building. Years later, Elizabeth recalled that when she was a girl, she saw "a little boy with clustering locks" playing in the back gar-

den of the Manning home on Herbert Street. At that time, she had no idea that she was watching her future brother-in-law.

Turn right on Essex Street, walk one short block, and then turn right again on Herbert Street. Proceed south along Herbert to 10 ½ -12 Herbert Street.

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3 10 ½-12 Herbert Street, the Manning House. Photograph, c. 1890. Photographer unkown.

Courtesy Peabody Essex Museum

Elizabeth Manning Hathorne's parents were wealthier than the Hathornes, and it was probably for this reason that Elizabeth returned to her childhood home after her husband's death. When Hawthorne, his mother, and his sisters moved into this large house in 1808, they joined an unusually large household that in 1810 numbered twenty people. This house was Hawthorne's main residence between 1808 and 1840, although he went to Bowdoin College from 1821 to 1825, and he, his mother and sisters moved to a cottage in North Salem on Dearborn Street between 1828 and 1832. Hawthorne wrote many of his early stories and sketches in his room on the third floor of this house, but he continued to refer to the house throughout his life as "Castle Dismal." Writing to his wife in 1840, Hawthorne stated, "If ever I should have a biographer, he ought to make great mention of this chamber in my memoirs, because so much of my lonely youth was wasted here, and here my mind and character were formed. . . . I sat a long, long time waiting patiently for the world to know me, and sometimes wondering why it did not know me sooner, or whether it would ever know me at all . . ." However, it was during his residence in this building that his first stories and collections were published, to great acclaim, and in a moment of defiant triumph he recorded in his notebook, "In this dismal chamber FAME was won!"

Continue south on Herbert Street to Derby Street and turn left. 188 Derby Street is set back from the street on the corner of Hodges Court.

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4 **188 Derby Street, home of Rachel Hathorne Forrester (1757-1823).**
Portrait by James Frothingham, 1822.

Courtesy Peabody Essex Museum

Through blood and marriage, Hawthorne was related to most of the wealthy and influential families in Salem. One of his father's sisters married into the Crowninshield family. The other, Rachel (depicted in this portrait the year before she died in 1823), married Simon Forrester, one of the wealthiest East India merchants in Salem. Forrester came to Salem at the age of 19 and was a protege of Rachel's father, Capt. Daniel Hathorne. In 1791, at the age of 43, Forrester had made enough money to purchase this home, designed by Samuel McIntire, and the wharf that still stands across the street. Capt. Nathaniel Hathorne sailed as an officer on several vessels for his brother-in-law, some as large as the *Friendship*, the tall ship that is docked today at Salem Maritime National Historic Site, and probably sailed from Forrester's Wharf several times. Nathaniel Hawthorne grew up visiting his aunt, uncle, and cousins in this house, and mentions the Forresters in his later writings.

Continue down Derby Street, past Salem Maritime National Historical Site to Turner Street. Turn right on Turner Street. The House of the Seven Gables, 57 Turner Street, is on the right.

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5 **57 Turner Street, The Turner House after alterations of around 1865.**
Photograph by Harwood, c.1865-1870.

Courtesy Peabody Essex Museum

By the time Hawthorne was a boy, three of the gables had been removed from the old Turner Mansion, as this house was then known. Susannah Ingersoll, who inherited the house in 1811, was a cousin of Hawthorne's, and after he returned to Salem upon graduation from Bowdoin in 1825, he and his sister Louisa often came to the house to play cards with Susannah, her adopted son Horace Conolly, and other family friends. According to Conolly, Susannah gave Hawthorne the idea for a collection of historical stories for children entitled *Grandfather's Chair* by telling him he could

write the story of all the Puritans who owned an old chair that sat in the house. On the same visit, Susannah took Hawthorne to the attic of the house and showed him the marks of the missing gables. In the preface to *The House of the Seven Gables*, Hawthorne states that the house in the book bears no relation to any house standing, but he begins the novel thus: "Half-way down a by-street of one of our New England towns, stands a rusty wooden house, with seven acutely peaked gables, facing towards various points of the compass, and a huge, clustered chimney in the midst." Today, the house has been restored to its seventeenth century appearance and is open to the public.

Return to Derby Street, cross the street, and continue up Turner Street to Essex Street. Turn left on Essex Street, and right on Washington Square East. Number 94 Washington Square East is three blocks north, on the corner of Briggs Street.

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6 94 Washington Square East, home of Mary Crowninshield Silsbee Sparks (1809-1887) Portrait by Francis Alexander, c.1830.

Courtesy Harvard University Portrait Collection, bequest of Lizzie Sparks Pickering to Harvard University

Mary Crowninshield Silsbee (1809-1887) was the daughter of Senator Nathaniel Silsbee, who built this mansion on Salem Common in 1819. Mary was a beauty, called "The Star of Salem" by her admirers. She was worldly, flirtatious, and according to Hawthorne's future sister-in-law Elizabeth Peabody (who did not like her) "she liked to create difficulties and intrigues." Throughout 1837 and 1838, rumors grew in Salem that the rising young author was engaged to the lovely heiress, especially after Mary had a portrait painted that depicted her with a mysterious hunter who looked very much like Hawthorne. When Sophia Peabody, Hawthorne's future wife, saw the portrait in 1838, she desired to be alone with it so much that she "wanted to put Miss Mary out of the window," as she wrote to her sister. Hawthorne's involvement with "The Star of Salem" ended in the fall of 1838 after she tried to force him to fight a duel with his good friend John O'Sullivan. In 1839 Mary married Jared Sparks, an historian who later became president of Harvard University. Many critics agree that Hawthorne's relationship with Mary Silsbee was the basis of his story "Rappacini's Daughter" about a young woman who is poisonous to the touch.

Cross Washington Square East, and then continue directly across the Salem Common.

7 **West Entrance of Salem Common. Daguerreotype, c. 1850. Photographer unknown.**

This view shows the entrance arch carved by Salem architect Samuel McIntire.

Courtesy Peabody Essex Museum

In 1801, the city transformed the "town swamp," as the Salem Common was often called, into a park, with trees and walks. The western gate, seen in this daguerreotype of 1850, was designed and carved by Samuel McIntire. By the time Hawthorne graduated from Bowdoin in 1825, the industry around "Washington Square" as the Common was renamed, had been replaced by grand mansions like that of the Silsbee family, and the Common had become a popular place for city celebrations. On July 4, 1838, his thirty-fourth birthday, Hawthorne attended the festivities on the Common, perhaps to distract himself from his disintegrating relationship with Mary Silsbee. He recorded his impressions: "A very hot, bright, sunny day; town much thronged; booths on the Common, selling gingerbread, sugar-plums, and confectionery, spruce beer, lemonade. . . . . On the top of one of the booths a monkey, with a tail two or three feet long. . . . He is the object of much attention from the crowd, and played with by the boys, who toss up gingerbread to him, while he nibbles and throws it down again. He reciprocates notice, of some kind or other, with all who notice him. There is a sort of gravity about him."

From the southwest corner of the Common, cross Hawthorne Boulevard, turn left, and go south 1 ½ blocks to Charter Street. Turn right on Charter Street and proceed past the graveyard to number 53 Charter Street.

8 **53 Charter Street, home of the Peabody Family. Photograph by G. A. Robinson, 1888.**
The front entrance of the house was later removed and given to the Peabody Essex Museum, where it is now used as the rear entrance of the Phillips Library on Essex Street.

Courtesy Peabody Essex Museum

Dr. Nathaniel Peabody, his wife Elizabeth Palmer Peabody, and his daughters Elizabeth, Mary, and Sophia moved into

this house next to the "Old Burying Point Cemetery" in 1835. Dr. Peabody was a dentist and saw patients in the house, using the parlor as his waiting room. In 1837, his daughter Elizabeth, who was very involved with intellectual society in the Boston area, invited Hawthorne, who had recently become noticed for his publication *Twice Told Tales*, to call at this house. Hawthorne and his sisters became friendly with the family, and after his relationship with Mary Silsbee ended he fell in love with the youngest Peabody daughter, Sophia. It was this house that he refers to in his first surviving love letter to Sophia, which begins: "My dearest Sophie, I had a parting glimpse of you, Monday forenoon, at your window—and that image abides by me, looking pale and not so quiet as is your wont." The Peabodys moved to Boston in 1840, and it was in the family's home, where Elizabeth Peabody had her famous bookshop, that Hawthorne and his "Dearest Dove" were married on July 9, 1842. This house continued to haunt Hawthorne, and many years later he set his two last unfinished works, *The Dolliver Romance* and *Dr. Grimshawe's Secret* in the old Peabody home.

Although Hawthorne left Salem often to go on trips, vacations, and lengthy visits before leaving it permanently (or so he and Sophia thought) after the wedding in 1842, Salem was never very far from his mind. The city is a constant presence in the sketches and stories he published in the 1830s and 1840s, and it is the Salem of Hawthorne's inspiration that we will explore next.

To begin the next stage of the tour, return down Charter Street to the Hawthorne Memorial on Hawthorne Boulevard.

Walking Tour 2: Salem In Print

From the Hawthorne Memorial, walk north to Essex Street, then turn left. The second house on the right, number 128 Essex Street, is the Gardner-Pingree House.

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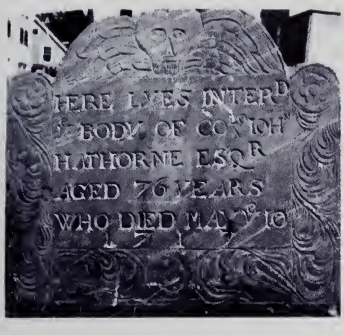
1 **128 Essex Street, the Gardner-PIngree House, home of Captain Joseph White (1748-1830).**
Pastel Portrait, c. 1780 by Benjamin Blyth.

Captain White's murder on August 6, 1830, in the Gardner-Pingree House horrified the city of Salem.

Courtesy Peabody Essex Museum.

This magnificent Federal style mansion was designed by Samuel McIntire and built in 1804, the same year Nathaniel Hawthorne was born. In 1814 the house was purchased by Captain Joseph White, a successful East India merchant. On April 7, 1830, the eighty-three year old merchant was brutally murdered in his bed. White had been bludgeoned and then stabbed more than ten times. Like everyone else in Salem, Hawthorne paid close attention to the hunt for the murderers. When two of the Crowninshield family and two brothers from another respectable merchant family, the Knapps, were arrested, Salem and Boston newspapers were full of reports of the trial, which was prosecuted by the famous lawyer and statesman Daniel Webster. It appeared that one of the Knapp brothers believed that his wife would inherit a fortune if White died without a will, so he hired two Crowninshield brothers to murder White and destroy the will. Hawthorne, who seems to have been acquainted with the Knapps, wrote to a relative, "I am afraid Captain Knapp himself meets with but little real pity, and everybody is eager for the death of his two sons. For my part, I wish Joe to be punished, but I should not be very sorry if Frank were to escape." Twenty years after the Knapps were executed, Hawthorne used elements of the story in his novel *The House of the Seven Gables.*

Continue west on Essex Street approximately ½ block to the pedestrian walkway. Turn left, and walk through to Charter Street. Turn right, walk a few dozen yards, and then enter the Old Burying Point Cemetery on the left.



2 **Charter Street Burial Ground, the gravestone of Colonel John Hathorne. Photograph by Edwin Miller, c. 1980.**
Col. Hathorne, the great-great-grandfather of Nathaniel Hawthorne, was a judge at the 1692 Salem witch trials.

Courtesy Peabody Essex Museum

"In the old burial ground, Charter Street, a slate gravestone, carved round the borders, to the memory of 'Colonel John Hathorne, Esq.,' who died in 1717. This was the witch-judge. The stone is sunk deep into the earth, and leans forward, and the grass grows very long around it; and, on account of the moss, it was rather difficult to make out the date. Other Hathornes lie buried in a range with him on either side," wrote Hawthorne in his notebook in 1838. Eight members of the Hathorne family are buried in this cemetery, including Hawthorne's grandparents. But the gravestone Hawthorne kept returning to in his writing was that of his great-great-grandfather Colonel John Hathorne, who was appointed to the court that examined the accused witches during the hysteria of 1692. Hawthorne must have spent a good deal of time in this graveyard, for he found inspiration for several of his stories in the stones here. One of the graves that fascinated him was that of Nathaniel Mather, for he recorded in his notebook, "the younger brother of Cotton, and mentioned in the *Magnalia* as a hard student, and of great promise. 'An aged man at nineteen years,' saith the gravestone. It affected me deeply, when I had cleared away the grass from the half-buried stone, and read the name." The story of Nathaniel Mather's early death was the basis for his first major work, *Fanshawe*, published in 1828.

Turn left out of the cemetery gate, and continue straight along Charter Street onto Front Street. At the right hand side of the corner of Front Street and Washington Street is a large brick building called Lawrence Place.

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3 **34 Front Street, Lawrence Place.**
Home of the Salem Athenaeum from 1841 to 1857.

The Salem Athenaeum, founded in 1810 from the merging of two older libraries, is a subscription library. Hawthorne's uncle William Manning and his aunt Mary Manning both owned shares in the Athenaeum, and eventually Mary gave her share to Hawthorne. Hawthorne and his sisters frequently borrowed books from the Athenaeum, and the history he learned from those books appeared in many of his writings. The Athenaeum moved several times during the early years of its existence: from 1815 to 1825 it was in a building on Essex

Street at the head of Central Street, and from 1825 to 1841 it was in a building on Essex Street next to the East India Marine Hall. Neither of these buildings stands today. In 1841, the Athenaeum moved to this building, "Lawrence Place," where it stayed until 1857. According to the 1846 Salem city directory, the 10,000 volumes were "scientifically arranged, as far as practicable, on the sides of the Hall and in alcoves," and the library was "open every day between the hours of 12 and 1, for the delivery of books." When Hawthorne was in Salem visiting his relatives in 1844, he wrote to his wife, "I spend almost all my afternoons at the Athenaeum." Today, the Athenaeum is located at 337 Essex Street.

At the corner of Front and Washington Streets, look to the left to Riley Plaza, where a circle of flagpoles stands in front of the Post Office.

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4 **Lower Washington Street, circa 1867. Lithograph by J. Warren Thyng. This Gothic Revival design replaced the original wooden depot in 1846. In 1954, it was replaced by the current depot at the opposite end of Washington Street.**

Courtesy Peabody Essex Museum.

In 1838, only nine years after the first steam locomotives began running in the United States, the Eastern Railroad line from Boston to Salem was opened. For the first year, the line ended in Salem, and the railroad station stood on Riley Plaza, where a parking lot is now located. Hawthorne supported the railroad; in his sketch "The Sister Years," about a conversation between the years 1838 and 1839, when the year 1839 asks her older sister what has happened over the past year, 1838 responds that she has opened the railroad. "Old Salem," she says, "now wears a much livelier expression than when I first beheld her. Strangers rumble down from Boston by hundreds at a time. New faces throng in Essex Street. Railroad hacks and omnibuses rattle over the pavements. There is a perceptible increase of oyster-shops, and other establishments for the accommodation of a transitory diurnal multitude. But a more important change awaits the venerable town. An immense accumulation of musty prejudices will be carried off by the free circulation of society."

Turn right, and walk up Washington Street one block.

The Daniel Low building, on the southeast corner of Washington and Essex Streets, was originally built in 1826 as the meetinghouse for the First Church. It was the fourth building

5 **Corner of Washington and Essex Streets, the Daniel Low Building.**
Woodcut by F. Hedge for the 1850 Salem City Directory.

The first floor of the First Church building was rented out to shopkeepers, and in 1850 Goldthwait, W. Bowditch, and C. Webster had their stores in the building.

Courtesy Peabody Essex Museum

built in this spot for the congregation, which was organized in 1629. The brick structure, seen here from Essex Street, had retail space on the first floor and the meetinghouse on the second floor. It was remodeled and expanded to the east and west in 1874. The Hathornes had been members of the First Church for generations, and Hawthorne's mother, Elizabeth Manning Hathorne, joined the church in 1806. Hawthorne and his sisters were baptized into the congregation in the wooden meetinghouse that preceded this building and attended services there. Towards the end of his life, Hawthorne mentioned in his essay collection *Our Old Home*, "the old wooden meeting-house in Salem, which used, on wintry Sabbaths, to be the frozen purgatory of my childhood." John Prince, the minister of the First Church in Hawthorne's childhood, was remembered fondly by him as "the good old silver-headed clergyman, who seemed to me as much a saint then on earth as he is now in heaven, and partly for whose sake, through all these darkening years, I retain a devout, though not intact nor unwavering respect for the entire fraternity." Hawthorne's respect for ministers wavered mainly because of Prince's successor, Charles W. Upham. Upham was a political enemy of Hawthorne's and instrumental in getting the author fired from the Custom Service in 1849.

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6 **Center of Essex Street, The Old Town Pump Memorial Fountain.**
Sketch of the Town Pump, by an unknown artist. This sketch was one of the illustrations to Julian Hawthorne's article "The Salem of Hawthorne" in the May 1884 *Century Magazine*.

Courtesy Peabody Essex Museum

In the center of Essex Street, in front of the Daniel Low

Building, is a fountain. This is the site of the Town Pump, the subject of one of Hawthorne's most popular sketches, "A Rill From the Town Pump." Told by the Town Pump itself, "A Rill" is on the surface a temperance lecture, but it is also a satire of the most extreme temperance activists. Some scholars have identified this piece as a response by Hawthorne to his friend George Cheever's trial for libel in 1835 for writing an inflammatory temperance tract targeting a local church deacon. As an anti-alcohol message, however, it was one of Hawthorne's most often republished sketches, including a version that appeared in a school reader. At the end of the sketch, the Town Pump asks, "when I shall have decayed, like my predecessors, then, if you revere my memory, let a marble fountain, richly sculptured, take my place upon this spot." In 1976, this fountain was built in response to that request. The fountain depicts some of the scenes from Salem history described by the Town Pump in the sketch.

Continue up Washington Street half a block to City Hall, number 93 Washington Street

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7 **93 Washington Street, Salem City Hall. Woodcut by "W." for the 1850 Salem City Directory.**

Courtesy Peabody Essex Museum

Salem's City Hall was completed in 1838 and is a wonderful example of the Greek Revival Style. The building appears in Hawthorne's story "The Sister Years," about the years 1838 and 1839: "Last night, between eleven and twelve o'clock, when the Old Year was leaving her final foot-prints on the borders of Time's empire, she found herself in possession of a few spare moments, and sat down—of all places in the world—on the steps of our new City Hall. . . . The New Year . . . greeted the disconsolate Old Year with great affection, and sat down beside her on the steps of the City Hall, waiting for the signal to begin her rambles through the world." While talking of all the events of 1838, the Old Year perhaps reflects Hawthorne's own feelings about Salem politics when she states, "here we sit, on the steps of the new City Hall, which has been completed under my administration; and it would make you laugh to see how the game of politics, of which the

Capitol at Washington is the great chess-board, is here played in miniature." Since his years at Bowdoin College, Hawthorne had close connections with the Democratic Party. Within ten years of writing this essay, he was caught up in Salem's political game, and his experiences as Surveyor of the Port of Salem proved to be no laughing matter.

While standing in front of City Hall, look up Washington Street toward Federal Street

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8 **Intersection of Washington and Federal Streets.** ***View of the Court House and Court Street*****, 1839-1845, attributed to William Henry Luscomb. Until 1839, this courthouse sat in the middle of Washington Street, when it was torn down to make way for the railroad tunnel.**

Courtesy Peabody Essex Museum

One of the events that the year 1838 also witnessed was the commencement of work for the Eastern Railroad Tunnel, which was dug under Washington Street. The old courthouse, which was designed by Samuel McIntire and built in 1785, was removed, and a trench was dug down the center of the street. Granite blocks were used to make an archway, and then the street surface was restored. In "The Sister Years," 1838 predicts that "a peculiarity of character, of which the inhabitants themselves are hardly sensible, will be rubbed down and worn away by the attrition of foreign substances. Much of the result will be good; there will likewise be a few things not so good. Whether for better or worse, there will be a probable diminution of the moral influence of wealth, and the sway of an aristocratic class, which, from an era far beyond my memory, has held firmer dominion here than in any other New England town," Besides bringing in new ideas, the new line made travel and freight movement easier in the area. The railroad prolonged the life of the Salem port and encouraged the growth of the factories and industries that by the 1830s were quickly replacing the warehouses and shipyards around Salem harbor.

Retrace your steps back down Washington Street to Essex Street, and take a left on Essex Street. This is the "principal street of my native town" that appears in several of Hawthorne's stories and sketches, most notably the 1849 sketch "Main Street," where he describes some of the history of Salem through scenes on Essex Street. Proceed down the Pedestrian Mall until you reach the East India Marine Hall, on the right across from a large fountain.

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9 **East India Square, East India Marine Hall.**
Woodcut by F. E. Worcester for the 1850 Salem City Directory.

East India Marine Hall was the home of the museum of the East India Marine Society. Today, the Hall and the collections of the Society are part of the Peabody Essex Museum.

Courtesy Peabody Essex Museum

The East India Marine Society, according to the announcement in the 1850 Salem City Directory, "is composed of persons who have actually navigated the seas beyond the Cape of Good Hope, or Cape Horn, as Masters or Supercargoes of vessels belonging to Salem." The Society was founded in 1799, and Hawthorne's father was one of its early members. In 1825, the East India Marine Hall was completed, with an open hall on the second floor designed to hold the museum of the society. Hawthorne often visited the museum, and brought friends, such as Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, Franklin Pierce, and Henry David Thoreau, to view the remarkable collection of strange and beautiful objects from all over the world. Hawthorne was obviously thinking about the museum's curiosities when he wrote the sketch "A Virtuoso's Collection," about a collection of mythological and historical artifacts.

By the mid-1840s, the small amount of money Hawthorne was making from his widely acclaimed stories and sketches was not meeting his family's expenses, despite Sophia's addition to the family income through painting. Since he had already spent some time in the U.S. Customs Service in Boston, he got the job of Surveyor of the Port of Salem. The job, and his fight to retain it, were to prove very trying for Hawthorne, but out of this experience was to come one of the greatest works of American literature. The last part of the tour will focus on his tenure as Surveyor and on the sites mentioned in the introduction to The Scarlet Letter, *the essay entitled "The Custom House."*

To begin the final segment of the tour, continue down Essex Street to the Hawthorne Memorial on Hawthorne Boulevard.

Walking Tour 3: "The Custom House"

From the Hawthorne Memorial, walk north to Essex Street, turn right, and walk five short blocks to Orange Street. Turn right on Orange Street, and proceed down Orange Street to Derby Street. On the east corner of Derby and Orange Streets stands the Custom House.

1 **169 Derby Street, the Custom House.**

The stencil used by the Custom House staff to mark incoming cargoes. The stencil reads: SALEM / N. HAWTHORNE/SURV/1847.

Courtesy National Park Service

The Salem Custom House was built in 1819, the last in a series of Custom Houses that had been located in the city since 1649. The eagle, which according to Hawthorne, "appears, by the fierceness of her beak and eye . . . to threaten mischief to the inoffensive community," was placed on the facade in 1826, and the cupola added in 1853. Because the building had gone over budget, the second floor was not finished, and in the introduction to *The Scarlet Letter*, "The Custom House," Hawthorne describes an "airy hall," which "remains unfinished to this day . . . At one end of the room, in a recess, were a number of barrels, piled one upon another, containing bundles of official documents." In order to connect the modern introduction, and its political commentary, with the seventeenth century story of Hester Prynne, Hawthorne pretends to find her story among the documents in those piled barrels.

Hawthorne was appointed Surveyor of the Port of Salem in 1846 and worked in this building for almost four years (see page 11 for the story of his dismissal). As Surveyor, Hawthorne supervised the weighing and measuring of cargoes, and the stencil depicted here is the one that was used to mark, as Hawthorne wrote, his name with "black paint, on pepper-bags, and baskets of anatto, and cigar-boxes, and bales of all kinds of dutiable merchandise, in testimony that these commodities had paid the impost, and gone regularly through the office."

Across Derby Street from the Custom House stands Derby Wharf, the longest of the three wharves that are today part of Salem Maritime National Historic Site.

Derby Wharf was begun in 1762 and extended to its present ½ mile length in 1806. Throughout the height of Salem's China Trade, Derby Wharf was one of the busiest of the nearly 50 wharves in Salem, and in the first decades of the nineteenth

2 **173 Derby Street, Derby Wharf.**

Photograph, c. 1893. Photographer Unknown.

Today, the Custom House and Derby Wharf are open to the public as part of the property of Salem Maritime National Historic Site.

Courtesy National Park Service

century, its warehouses would have been filled with exotic spices and other goods. However, by the 1840s, the view from the window of Hawthorne's office in the Custom House was very different from what he saw as a boy visiting his aunt and uncle Forrester a few houses down Derby Street. In 1850, after the spice trade with the East Indies had been replaced by raw hides from West Africa, Hawthorne recorded his impressions of Derby Wharf in the introduction to *The Scarlet Letter*. He states that it, "in the days of old King Derby, was a bustling wharf,—but . . . is now burdened with decayed wooden warehouses, and exhibits few or no symptoms of commercial life; except, perhaps, a bark or brig, half-way down its melancholy length, discharging hides; or, nearer at hand, a Nova Scotia schooner, pitching out her cargo of firewood." It is, he states, "a dilapidated wharf, which the tide often overflows, and along which, at the base and in the rear of the row of buildings, the track of many languid years is seen in a border of unthrifty grass."

To the left of the Custom House, across Orange Street, is a large brick building at 180 Derby Street with a plaque reading "Home for Aged Women. Presented by Robert Brookhouse 1861" mounted between the second and third story.

The original section of this house, facing Derby Street, was built for Benjamin W. Crowninshield about 1810. When Hawthorne began work in the Custom House in 1846, the house had been the home for over twenty years of General James Miller, the Collector of Customs. Miller was a hero in the war of 1812 and the former Governor of the Arkansas Territory. In 1846, he was 70 years old and in poor health. Hawthorne grew to like the aged Collector, and his descriptions of Miller in "The Custom House" reflect that affection. "It was only with the assistance of a servant," Hawthorne writes, "and by leaning his hand heavily on the iron balustrade, that he could slowly and painfully ascend the Custom-House steps, and, with a toilsome progress across the floor, attain his customary chair beside the fireplace." Miller's spirit, according to Hawthorne, "could never, I conceive, have been characterized by an uneasy activity; it must, at any period of

3 **180 Derby Street, the Benjamin W. Crowninshield House, home of General James Miller (1776-1851). Portrait by Henry Willard, c.1830.**

This house was probably one of the last designed by Samuel McIntire before his death in 1811. In 1861, the house became the "Brookhouse Home for Aged Women" and was expanded in 1906 and 1916. Today, the Brookhouse Home still operates in the Benjanim W. Crowninshield House.

Courtesy Peabody Essex Museum

his life, have required an impulse to set him in motion; but, once stirred up, with obstacles to overcome, and an adequate object to be attained, it was not in the man to give out or fail." Although Hawthorne's description of General Miller in "The Custom House" was not in any way as negative as his descriptions of other members of the Custom House staff, Miller's family was offended by Hawthorne's depiction of the frailty of this former military hero.

Facing the Crowninshield House, turn to your left and proceed west along Derby Street to Hawthorne Boulevard. Turn right on Hawthorne Boulevard, then take the first left onto Charter Street. Proceed down Charter Street until you reach the graveyard on the left.

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4 **Charter Street**
Old Burying Point Cemetery

The gravestones of Hawthorne's ancestors in this graveyard were a continual presence in his mind. In "The Custom House," Hawthorne revisits these graves as an explanation for having "within me a feeling for old Salem, which, for lack of a better phrase, I must be content to call affection." He describes his great-great-grandfather, John Hathorne, a judge during the witch trials of 1692, who "inherited the persecuting spirit, and made himself so conspicuous in the martyrdom of the witches, that their blood may fairly be said to have left a stain upon him. So deep a stain, indeed, that his old dry bones, in the Charter Street burial-ground, must still retain it, if they have not crumbled utterly to dust!"

Continue down Charter Street onto Front Street and through to the corner of Front and Washington. Lawrence Place is the large brick building on the right side of Front Street as you approach Washington Street

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5 **34 Front Street, Lawrence Place.**
Home of the Essex Historical Society from 1841 to 1848

To connect the political details of "The Custom House" with the rest of the story of *The Scarlet Letter*, Hawthorne claimed that he found the story among the papers of a previous Surveyor, along with many other notes on early Massachusetts history. He states that "as a final disposition, I contemplate depositing them with the Essex Historical Society."

When Hawthorne began his stint as Surveyor, the Essex Historical Society was on the second floor of this building, over the Athenaeum. According to the 1846 Salem City Directory, "its object is to procure and preserve whatever relates to the topography, antiquities, natural, civil, and ecclesiastical history of the County of Essex. The library contains about 1200 volumes, principally historical works, newspapers, pamphlets, arranged according to subjects, public documents, etc. Bound into volumes. They have a good collection of portraits and curiosities, illustrative of the early history of the country." In 1848, shortly before Hawthorne was forced out of his job as Surveyor, the Essex Historical Society merged with the Essex County Natural History Society to form the Essex Institute, one of the two institutions that form the modern day Peabody Essex Museum.

Cross Washington Street, turn left, and then take a right onto Norman Street. Walk up Norman Street to Summer Street (Route 114) then continue straight across Summer Street onto Chestnut Street. Proceed up Chestnut Street to number 18, at the corner of Bott's Court.

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6 **18 Chestnut Street, the Hawthornes' residence from 1846 to 1847**
Photograph by Frank Cousins, c. 1891.

The bay window and entrance porch were added by later owners, who moved the entrance from the Bott's Court side of the building.

Courtesy Peabody Essex Museum

"We are residing in the most stately street in Salem," wrote Sophia Peabody Hawthorne to family friend Horatio Bridge in December 1846. However, the Hawthorne's house, which they moved into after the birth of their second child, Julian, in Boston in July 1846, was one of the smallest and oldest on this street of grand mansions and wealthy families. "Our house is much too small for our necessities," Sophia continued. "My husband has no study, and his life is actually wasted this win-

ter for want of one. He has not touched his desk since we came to Salem, nor will not, until we can move to a more convenient dwelling." In September 1847, the Hawthornes moved to a larger house on Mall Street.

Turn right on Bott's Court, and walk through to Essex Street. Take a right on Essex past the present day home of the Salem Athenaeum, which was built in 1910. Proceed two blocks to the traffic light at the corner of North Street. On the northwest corner of Essex and North Streets is the Jonathan Corwin House, familiarly known as the "Witch House."

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7 **310 ½ Essex Street, the Jonathan Corwin House. Pencil sketch, 1841, by Edward C. Cabot.**

The gambrel roof that covers the house in this drawing was added by Sarah Corwin, the widow of Judge Corwin's grandson, in 1746.

Courtesy Peabody Essex Museum

When Hawthorne lived in Salem, there were a number of seventeenth-century houses still standing on the main streets of the city. This house would have been familiar to Hawthorne, not as it looks today in its restored state, but as it was depicted in this 1841 sketch by a Salem resident. Jonathan Corwin, who purchased the unfinished house in 1675 and had it completed, was a fellow judge with Hawthorne's great-great-grandfather, John Hathorne, on the court that examined and tried the accused witches in 1692.

Cross North Street, then turn left and walk up one block to Lynde Street. Turn right on Lynde, and walk the length of Lynde Street to Washington Street. Cross Washington Street onto Church Street. On the right is the site of the Salem Lyceum.

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8 **35 Church Street, the Salem Lyceum. Photograph c. 1890. Photographer unknown.**

Courtesy Peabody Essex Museum

In 1830, the Salem Lyceum was formed, and a building was constructed to provide "for the public entertainment and instruction," as the 1846 Salem City Directory stated. "Its hall is

one of the most convenient, although one of the earliest constructed edifices of the kind in the country. It affords accommodation to the community for independent courses of lectures, for musical concerts, for the occasional temporary meetings of religious societies, and for a great variety of similar purposes." The banked seats in the hall gave the audience a good view of the stage, which in the first ten series of lectures presented such luminaries as Ralph Waldo Emerson, Horace Mann, Oliver Wendell Holmes, George Caitlin, and Charles Francis Adams. Hawthorne was the corresponding secretary of the Lyceum for the 1848-49 series of lectures and in his papers are some of the letters he wrote to invite his friends Henry David Thoreau and Ralph Waldo Emerson to lecture. Hawthorne also invited his publisher, J. T. Fields, to deliver a poem "on the evening when the Lyceum opens . . . in conjunction with a lecture from Mr. [Daniel] Webster."

Continue straight on Church Street to the corner of St. Peter's Street and the large stone church on the corner.

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9 **24 St. Peter Street, St. Peter's Church. Watercolor, 1832-1833 by G. A. Perkins.**
This is the 1733 building that was replaced in 1833 by the stone Gothic Revival structure that stands on the same spot today.

Courtesy Peabody Essex Museum

In "The Custom House," Hawthorne elegantly combines fact and fiction. The story of *The Scarlet Letter* was made up by Hawthorne, but Surveyor Jonathan Pue, among whose papers Hawthorne pretends to "find" the story, was an actual person. "I remembered to have read (probably in Felt's Annals)," writes Hawthorne, "a notice of the decease of Mr. Surveyor Pue, about fourscore years ago; and likewise, in a newspaper of recent times, an account of the digging up of his remains in the little grave-yard of St. Peter's Church, during the renewal of that edifice. Nothing, if I rightly call to mind, was left of my respected predecessor, save an imperfect skeleton, and some fragments of apparel, and a wig of majestic frizzle; which, unlike the head that it once adorned, was in very satisfactory preservation." Hawthorne did, in fact, read of Pue's wig and waistcoat buttons in an article on June 8, 1833, in an article in the Salem newspaper about the construction of this Gothic Revival church that replaced the century-old wooden church on this spot. On the corner of Brown and St. Peter's Street, behind the iron fence, the gravestone of Surveyor Jonathan Pue can be seen today.

Continue straight on Brown Street, past the statue of Salem founder Roger Conant on your right, and onto Washington Square North. Two blocks beyond the statue, turn left on Mall Street and proceed up the street to number 10 Mall Street.

10 **14 Mall Street, the last residence in Salem of the Hawthornes.**
Photograph, c. 1880.
Photographer unknown.

Courtesy Peabody Essex Museum

In September 1847, the Hawthornes moved into this house on Mall Street. Sophia was very pleased with the house: "all the rooms face the sun and we shall bask in sunshine all winter," she wrote to her mother. The greatest advantage, however, over the Chestnut Street house was that Hawthorne would have a study on the third floor. "He will be as quiet up there as if among the stars . . . He has now lived in the nursery a year without a chance for one hour's uninterrupted musing, and without his desk being once opened." Also, the house was large enough to allow Hawthorne's mother and sisters to join the rest of the family, but still have their own set of rooms. "Mrs. Hawthorne's remainder of life," wrote Sophia, "will be glorified by the presence of these children and her son. I am so glad to win her out of that Castle Dismal and from the mysterious chamber, into which . . . the sun never shines. Into these rooms in Mall Street it blazes without ceremony or stint." This house was also the site of Hawthorne's harshest trials and greatest triumph, for it was while the family was living here in 1848 that Hawthorne found that his political enemies were trying to get him fired, and as he fought to keep his job during the early summer of 1849 his mother became seriously ill. Hawthorne received word on June 8 that he had been fired, and Elizabeth Manning Hawthorne died on July 31, 1849. He stopped fighting for his job in August of that year, perhaps because of his mother's death, or perhaps because he was focused on a new project: *The Scarlet Letter*, a story into which he poured all the rage and frustration of that summer. Hawthorne began the book in late summer 1849, and completed it in February 1850. "It is either very good or very bad – I don't know which," he told his publisher.

The Mall Street house was Hawthorne's last residence in Salem, and it is the last stop on the tour. To return to Hawthorne Boulevard, retrace your steps down Mall Street and to the right around Salem Common.

Nathaniel, Sophia, and their children Una and Julian left Salem in 1850, shortly before the publication of *The Scarlet Letter* and only rarely returned in the next 14 years. The family lived in Lenox, Massachusetts, briefly before returning to Concord and purchasing The Wayside.

In 1853, Hawthorne was appointed Consul to Liverpool, England, and the family (with the addition of the youngest child Rose) spent the next seven years in Europe. The Hawthornes returned to The Wayside in 1860, and four years later Nathaniel Hawthorne died, on May 18, 1864, in Plymouth, New Hampshire, while on a trip with his lifelong friend President Franklin Pierce.

Other Sites in Salem to Visit

There are several other sites in the city of Salem important to Hawthorne's life and writings, but outside the central section of the city. For those visitors who wish to see these sites, here are driving directions from the National Park Service Visitor Center.

Manning House and Hawthorne Cottage, Dearborn Street
In 1824, Nathaniel Hawthorne's uncle Robert Manning built a house at number 33 Dearborn Street, in North Salem. Four years later, Manning built a cottage next door for his sister, Elizabeth Manning Hathorne, and her family, who lived in the cottage at 31 Dearborn Street from 1828 to 1832, when they returned to the Manning house on Herbert Street. The cottage at number 31 was later moved across the street to 26 Dearborn Street.

From the National Park Service Visitor Center on New Liberty Street, take a left on Brown Street and a right on St. Peter Street. At the end of St. Peter Street, take a left onto Bridge Street (Rt. 107). Proceed along Bridge Street, and follow the right exit onto Rt. 114. Go over the bridge, and take the fourth right onto Dearborn Street.

Gallows Hill
According to local legend, Gallows Hill was the site of the execution of those accused of witchcraft during the trials of 1692. In "Alice Doane's Appeal," Hawthorne describes visiting the place: "this was the field where superstition won her darkest triumph; the high place where our fathers set up their shame, to the mournful gaze of generations far remote. The dust of martyrs was beneath our feet. We stood on Gallows Hill."

From the National Park Service Visitor Center on New Liberty Street, take a left on Brown Street and a right on St. Peter Street. At the end of St. Peter Street, take a left onto Bridge Street (Rt. 107). Follow Rt. 107 until you see signs on your right to Gallows Hill Park, approximately 1.5 miles past the train station.

Winter Island
At the end of the Salem peninsula is Winter Island, where the ruins of Fort Pickering can still be seen. Hawthorne often walked to Winter Island during his years in Salem.

From the National Park Service Visitor Center, take a right on Brown Street and then a right on Hawthorne Blvd. Take a left on Derby Street, and follow Derby Street until you see the signs for Winter Island.

Walking Tour 1:
Relations and Relationships

1. 27 Union Street
2. The Brown Building
3. 10 ½-12 Herbert Street
4. 188 Derby Street
5. 57 Turner Street
6. 94 Washington Square East
7. Salem Common
8. 54 Charter Street

Walking Tour 2:
Salem in Print

1. The Gardner-Pingree House
2. The Old Burying Point Cemetery
3. Lawrence Place
4. Riley Plaza
5. The Daniel Low Building
6. The Old Town Pump Memorial Fountain
7. Salem City Hall
6. Washington and Federal Streets
5. East India Marine Hall

Walking Tour 3:
The Custom House

3. The Custom House
2. Derby Wharf
3. The Benjamin W. Crowninshield House
3. Old Burying Point Cemetery
3. Lawrence Place
3. 18 Chestnut Street
3. The Witch House
3. The Salem Lyceum
9. St. Peter's Church
10. 14 Mall Street

Sites Related to Nathaniel Hawthorne Outside of Salem

Between his birth in Salem and his last year as a resident of that city in 1850, Nathaniel Hawthorne visited, lived in, and wrote about many other places in New England. This is a selected list of places outside Salem that you might wish to visit:

Concord, Massachusetts

In Concord, you can find not only sites related to the American Revolution, but also sites associated with the literary community of the early nineteenth century.

Minute Man National Historical Park administers **The Wayside**, the only home Hawthorne ever owned and the former home of the Alcott Family. http://www.nps.gov/mima/

Orchard House, home of the Alcotts. http://www.louisamayalcott.org

The Trustees of Reservations administer **The Old Manse**, where the Hawthornes lived for a few years after their marriage and where Hawthorne wrote *Mosses from an Old Manse*. http://www.thetrustees.org/

The Concord Museum has exhibits on literary society in Concord. http://www.concordmuseum.org/

The Emerson House, home of Ralph Waldo Emerson.

Walden Pond State Reservation, where Henry David Thoreau lived. http://www.state.ma.us/dem/parks/wldn.htm/

Sleepy Hollow Cemetery, where Hawthorne is buried.

Boston, Massachusetts, and Environs

Boston National Historical Park's Freedom Trail visits many of the sites familiar to Hawthorne, including:

Boston Common, mentioned in some of his stories and sketches; the **Boston Athenaeum**, where Hawthorne researched and wrote stories while working for the Boston Custom House; and the **Old Corner Bookstore**, where Ticknor and Fields Co. published the writings of Hawthorne and most of the other literary lights of the mid-19th century. http://www.nps.gov/bost

Longfellow National Historic Site, Cambridge, MA. Home of Hawthorne's close friend, Henry Wadsworth Longfellow. http://www.nps.gov/long/

Western Massachusetts

Hawthorne often visited Western Massachusetts and attended a commencement at **Williams College** in 1838, where he saw the "country graduates — rough, brown-featured, schoolmaster-looking... A rough hewn, heavy set of fellows from the hills and woods in this neighborhood, unpolished bumpkins, who had grown up as farmer-boys." Today, Williams is one of the top liberal arts colleges in the country. http://www.williams.edu/

The beauty of the Berkshires was not lost on Hawthorne, and he wrote about many of its sites, including the **Natural Bridge** and **Mount Greylock**. http://www.state.ma.us/dem/listing.htm/

Hawthorne was fascinated by the Shakers, and visited the **Hancock Shaker Village**. http://www.hancockshakervillage.org/

Also near Pittsfield is **Arrowhead**, the home of Herman Melville, fellow author and friend of Hawthorne. http://www.mobydick.org/

The Hawthornes moved to **Lenox, Massachusetts**, after he was fired from the Custom House. http://www.lenox.org/

Maine

Hawthorne spent many happy years in Maine, first at his uncle's home near **Raymond** and then as an undergraduate at **Bowdoin College**. Today, Bowdoin has a collection of correspondence and other documents related to Hawthorne. http://www.bowdoin.edu/.

New Hampshire

Hawthorne often visited New Hampshire and mentioned many of its natural features in his sketches and stories, such as **Mount Washington, the Old Man of the Mountain, Crawford Notch**, and the **Isle of Shoals**. http://www.nhparks.state.nh.us/

Canterbury Shaker Village appeared in one of his sketches. http://www.shakers.org/

One of the reasons Hawthorne was so familiar with New Hampshire was through visits to the home of his lifelong friend, **President Franklin Pierce**, who was a New Hampshire native. http://www.franklinpierce.ws/

Books and Web Sites for Further Information

Books:

Mellow, James R. *Nathaniel Hawthorne in His Times.* Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press, 1980.

Moore, Margaret B. *The Salem World of Nathaniel Hawthorne.* Columbia, MO: University of Missouri Press, 1998.

Tharp, Louise Hall. *The Peabody Sisters of Salem.* Boston: Little, Brown, 1978.

U.S. Department of the Interior. *Salem: Maritime Salem in the Age of Sail.* Washington, DC: U.S. Government Printing Office, 2003.

Web Sites:

Nathaniel Hawthorne in Salem, a web site devoted to Hawthorne's life in Salem: http://www.hawthorneinsalem.org/

The Complete Works of Nathaniel Hawthorne online: http://www.eldritchpress.org/

The Nathaniel Hawthorne Society, a national association of Hawthorne scholars: http://asweb.artsci.uc.edu/english/HawthorneSociety/nh.html/

Salem Maritime National Historic Site, which administers the Salem Custom House where Hawthorne worked: http://www.nps.gov/sama/

The Peabody Essex Museum, which exhibits many items related to Salem History. http://www.pem.org/

DATE DUE

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National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Salem Maritime National Historic Site
174 Derby Street
Salem, MA 01970

978 740-1660 phone
http://www.nps.gov/sama

Photograph courtesy National Park Service

This photograph of the Salem Custom House was taken in 1854, only four years after the publication of Nathaniel Hawthorne's masterpiece, *The Scarlet Letter*. The introduction to the novel is set in this building, which is now open to the public as part of Salem Maritime National Historic Site. The cupola was added to the building in 1853, shortly after Hawthorne left his position as Surveyor of the Port of Salem. Objects belonging to Hawthorne, including the desk he used, are currently on display in the office he occupied from 1846 to 1849.

The walking tours in this booklet are designed to allow visitors of all ages to learn about the history of Salem while walking in the footsteps of one of the greatest authors of nineteenth-century America.

EXPERIENCE YOUR AMERICA

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

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Photograph courtesy National Park Service

This photograph of the Salem Custom House was taken in 1854, only four years after the publication of Nathaniel Hawthorne's masterpiece, *The Scarlet Letter*. The introduction to the novel is set in this building, which is now open to the public as part of Salem Maritime National Historic Site. The cupola was added to the building in 1853, shortly after Hawthorne left his position as Surveyor of the Port of Salem. Objects belonging to Hawthorne, including the desk he used, are currently on display in the office he occupied from 1846 to 1849.

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